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COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM

DOI AUGUST 1964-10 APRIL 1966

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(C)

SUBJECT BUDDHIST INTENTION FOR CONTINUED CONTROLLED AGITATION
IN I CORPS AREA AND EXPECTATION THAT FIRST DIVISION
REGIMENTS WOULD OBEY COMMANDER

ACQ VIETNAM, SAIGON (11 APRIL 1966) FIELD NO. [REDACTED]

SOURCE [REDACTED]

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1. THICH MAT NGUYEN, REPRESENTING HUE BUDDHIST LEADER THICH DONUW AU HUE AND HIMSELF ONE OF THREE LEADING HUE BONZES, ARRIVED IN DANANG ON THE EVENING OF 10 APRIL TO CALM BUDDHIST AGITATION. HOWEVER, MAT NGUYEN WAS NOT TO STOP THE AGITATION; HE IS TO KEEP THE POT BOILING BUT MAKE SURE IT DOES NOT BOIL OVER. FOR EXAMPLE, ALTHOUGH THE GENERAL STRIKE SUPPOSEDLY HAS ENDED IN DANANG, DRIVERS OF VEHICLES REMAIN ON STRIKE; WHEN THEY RETURN TO WORK ANOTHER GROUP WILL STRIKE. ONE OBJECTIVE OF THE BUDDHISTS IS TO INSTALL TWO HUE BUDDHISTS IN A FUTURE

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NATIONAL GOVERNMENT, WHICH WOULD CAUSE A SERIOUS REACTION AMONG CATHOLICS. THESE TWO ARE BUI TUONG HUAN, RECTOR OF HUE UNIVERSITY AND LE TUYEN HUE UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR. [REDACTED] PRESENT I CORPS COMMANDER GENERAL TON THAT DINH SHOULD BE ABLE TO ARRIVE AT SOME SETTLEMENT WITH- IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS.)

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2. THE THREE REGIMENTAL COMMANDERS OF THE FIRST DIVISION, LOCATED IN QUANG TRI AND THUA TYOEN PROVINCES, WILL OBEY ORDERS FROM THEIR COMMANDER, GENERAL PHAM XUAN NHUAN, ALTHOUGH ONE IS RELATED TO FORMER I CORPS COMMANDER NGUYEN CHANH THI. THERE IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE TROOPS OF THESE REGIMENTS WOULD NOT FOLLOW ORDERS OF THEIR COMMANDING OFFICERS. LT. COL. NGUYEN AM, FIRST REGIMENT COMMANDER, IS POLITICALLY NEUTRAL; LT. COL. PHAN BA HAA SECOND REGIMENT COMMANDER, IS POLITICALLY NEUTRAL AND A RELATIVE OF THI'S SUCCESSOR, GENERAL VAN CHUAN; AND LT. COL. LE VAN KHUY, THIRD REGIMENT COMMANDER, POLITICAL INCLINATION UNKNOWN, IS RELATED TO GENERAL THI.

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3. [REDACTED] IT IS A MISTAKE TO ATTRIBUTE THE PRESENT CRISIS IN THE I CORPS AREA TO GENERAL THI, ALTHOUGH I CORPS OFFICERS MAY BELIEVE THAT THI'S DISMISSAL IS RESPONSIBLE OR THAT THEY HAVE BEEN DEFENDING HIS CAUSE. THI, IN FACT, IS LIKE A CARD PLAYER, PLACING HIS BETS NOW ON THIS LEADER, THEN ON ANOTHER; HE PLAYS HIS SUBORDINATES IN THE SAME MANNER. HIS ONLY REAL OBJECTIVE IS TO

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CONTINUE THE GAME. OFFICERS IN I CORPS HAVE BEEN SUPPORTING THI BECAUSE THEY NEITHER UNDERSTAND POLITICS NOR PERCEIVE THE REAL ISSUES.

4. PRESENT COUP PLANNING AGAINST THE NGUYEN CAO KY GOVERNMENT BEGAN EIGHT MONTHS AGO BY BUDDHIST LEADERS IN HUE, WHO HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR A SUITABLE OCCASION OR PRETEXT. CERTAIN RADIO ANNOUNCEMENTS WERE PREPARED SEVERAL MONTHS IN ADVANCE. THE INSTIGATOR IS THICH TRI QUANG, WHO HAS MANAGED TO KEEP HIMSELF IN THE BACKGROUND WHILE WORKING THROUGH FOUR HUE BUDDHISTS: HOANG VAN GIAU, HUE UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR, VINH KHA, HUE UNIVERSITY STUDENT; LE TUYEN; AND BUI TUONG HUAN. (FIELD COMMENT: MILD BUDDHIST POLITICAL AGITATION DID OCCUR IN AUGUST 1965 AND A STUDENT STRUGGLE MOVEMENT AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT AROSE IN HUE, BUT THESE ACTIVITIES LOST THEIR MOMENTUM IN EARLY SEPTEMBER 1965.)

5. FIELD DISSEM: STATE USMACV USAID JUSPAO USARV NAVFORV 7TH AIR FORCE CINCPAC ARPAC PACAF PACFLT.

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